

Amending the Regional Agreement

**Presentation MASC/MASS
Joint Conference**

***Massachusetts Association of
Regional Schools***



Procedure to Amend Overview

- Review the current Regional Agreement for procedures for amending
- Review State Laws concerning regions
- Form a Regional Agreement Amendment Committee (RAAC)
- Develop a Community Relations Process
- Review and suggest amendments to current Regional Agreement
- When submitting an amendment, all parts of the regional agreement must be in compliance with State Laws and Regulations
- Produce an amended Agreement
- Seek preliminary approval from Commissioner of Education
- Amended agreement is Voted in each town
- Final Approval by the Commissioner of Education



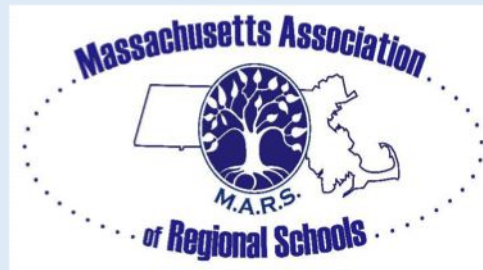
Review the current Regional Agreement for procedures for amending



Regional Agreement

SECTION AMENDMENT

- This Agreement may be amended at any time, and from time to time, in the manner hereinafter provided, but no such amendment shall be made which shall substantially impair the rights of the holders of any bonds or notes or other indebtedness of the District then outstanding or the rights of the District to procure the means for payment thereof



Regional Agreement

SECTION AMENDMENT

- An amendment may be proposed by vote of the Regional District School Committee or by vote of any town meeting of any Participating Town. In the latter case the Town Clerk shall forthwith deliver a copy of such vote to the Secretary of the Regional District School Committee. In either case the Secretary shall forthwith deliver a copy of the vote proposing the amendment to the Town Clerk of each Participating Town, and each such Town shall vote at its next town meeting, whether annual or special, upon the acceptance of such amendment. Such amendment shall take effect upon its acceptance by each of the Participating Towns in the manner hereinabove provided



State Laws for Regional Agreements

- The Regional agreement must address all sections as outlined in Chapter 71 Section 14B
- The review would make sure that all required sections are up to date and addressed



Governance and Assessment

- School Committee Composition
 - One Person On Vote
 - Chapter 71 Section 14E
- Assessment Methodology
 - Statutory Method
 - Agreement Method—alternate method



Governance:

One Person One Vote

- Chapter 71 Section 14E
 - Options for Election of Regional School Committees
- There are five ways to choose school committee members and be in compliance



Assessments

- **Statutory Method**
- **Agreement Method**



Recommended Steps in Amending

- School Committee appoints a Regional Agreement Amendment Committee (RAAC)
 - Membership on the RAAC
- The RAAC writes amendments to the Regional Agreement
- The RAAC reviews the Regional Agreement for Compliance
- RAAC produces an amended agreement
- RAAC recommends to the School Committee approval or no approval
- School Committee votes to approve, not approve or change the amendment and updates to regional agreement submitted by the RAAC
- Amended agreement sent to DESE for initial approval
- Amendment is sent to the Selectmen of each town after initial approval by DESE



Recommended Steps in Amending

- Selectmen place article on the warrant
- Voters approve or disapprove amended agreement
- If approved, signed agreement and certified votes sent to DESE
- Commissioner approves amended agreement provided it is in compliance



Reflect

- Amendment Process requires careful thought
- Need to develop a Community Relations Program
- Length of time to amend a Regional Agreement can take up to a year or more
- Recommendation is to have facilitators and legal assistance



Your Agreement

- What is on file with the DESE?
- Has the agreement been updated with amendments that have been approved by the Towns?
- Does DESE have all the amendments?
- This is an opportunity to update the agreement with all the amendments into one document.



Questions

